

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00624 211253Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7784

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

US MISSION US BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

US MISSION NATO 723

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS CRITICISM OF FRG

REF: WARSAW 1348

1. EMBASSY NOTES THAT CS PRESS IN LAST TWO WEEKS HAS COME DOWN
ESPECIALLY HARD ON FRG, FOR EXAMPLE USING LANGUAGE AND ACCUSATIONS
RE WW II CRIMES AGAINST GERMANS SIMILAR TO THOSE APPARENTLY IN
POLISH PRESS (REF). CZECHS HAVE NOT SPARED EFFORT TO REPEAT USUAL
ARGUMENTS ABOUT DANGERS TO DETENTE AND EUROPEAN SECURITY INHERENT
IN RESURGENT RIGHT WING FORCES UNDER FRANZ JOSER STRUASS' INFLUENCE;
THEY HAVE ADDED ACCUSATION THAT THESE ESSENTIALLY DESTRUCTIVE FRG
ELEMENTS ARE NOW KEEN TO REWRITE AND PUBLISH THEIR OWN DOCU-
MENTARY HISTORY OF WW II IN A VERSION "SLANDERING" WW II EFFORTS
OF USSR AND ITS "LIBERATION MISSION." IN AN UNUSUAL AMPLIFICATION,
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00624 211253Z

RUDE PRAVO ON FEB 22 EVEN SCORED THE BONN GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY

FOR ALLOWING "GERMAN REVANCHISTS" TO COMPILE THIS DOCUMENTARY.

2. LIKE THE POLES, THE CZECHS HAVE THEIR SHOPPING LIST OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH THE WEST GERMANS--LEGITIMATE LASTING BITTERNESS DATING FROM THE OCCUPATION, UNSATISFACTORY QUOTA-RESTRICTED CZECHOSLOVAK ACCESS TO THE GERMAN MARKET, SECTORS OF THE FRG PRESS CRITICAL OR OPENLY HOSTILE TO IMPROVED FRG-CSSR TIES, FRG-BASED RADIO FREE EUROPE AND CZECHOSLOVAK EMIGRE "SUBVERSION," AND SO ON. AS SUCH, IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T TAKE TOO MUCH SOVIET LOBBYING TO GET THE CZECHS, AND THE POLES, ENTHUSIASTICALLY ON BOARD A "CORRECT" WW II HISTORY BANDWAGON HITTING THE "FASCISTS" HARD. IN THIS RESPECT, THE FRG EMBASSY HERE BELIEVES THAT THESE TWO EE COUNTRIES INDEED ARE WORKING CLOSELY ON THIS CAMPAIGN.

3. BUT THE COMMON DENOMINATOR IN THIS HOSTILE PRESS MAY BE BROADER-BASED, LINKED TO THE MARCH 4-6 PRAGUE CP CONFERENCE. THE MAR 7 RUDE PRAVO NOTED THAT PROPAGATING THE "TRUTH ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTALS AND NATURE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR" WAS A MAJOR SUBJECT OF THE PRAGUE CONFERENCE ON IDEOLOGY: THUS, THE CS PRESS ON THE FRG, VIEWED TOGETHER WITH THE POLISH PRESS, MAY BE SIGNALLING THE "RIGHT THINK" TEXT OF TODAY'S SOCIALIST COUNTRY WW II LINE, AS IT WAS HAMMERED OUT AT THE CONFERENCE. THE KSC WEEKLY TVORBA, ON MAR 12, ECHOED THIS CP CONFERENCE THINKING -- REITERATING THAT DELEGATES FELT ESPECIALLY THAT THE YOUTH OF EUROPE, UNSCATHED BY THE SECOND WAR, HAD TO BE TOLD THIS PARTICULAR SOCIALIST TRUTH TO "BELIEVE THE EFFORT TO FALSIFY THE ROLE OF COUNTRIES HAVING TAKEN PART IN THE WAR." TVORBA ADDED A NEW, PERHAPS POSITIVE TWIST IN THE NEXT SENTENCE: "UNDERScoreD IN THIS (CONFERENCE) CONTEXT WAS THE EXPERIENCE IN COOPERATION AMONG STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL REGIMES AT PRESENT." HOWEVER, THIS ASPECT OF THE "NEW" HISTORY OF WW II, IF COMPLIMENTARY OR AT LEAST POSITIVE IN TERMS OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HAS NOT SHOWN UP YET, AT LEAST IN THE CS PRESS.

PERRY

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